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Draft plan of implementation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (paragraphs 121-158)



X. Institutional framework for sustainable development

121. An effective institutional framework for sustainable development at all levels is key to the achievement of sustainable development as reflected in Agenda 21 [bearing in mind the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development]. To achieve this goal and meet emerging challenges, the institutional framework for sustainable development should focus on the full implementation of Agenda 21 [and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration [the Monterrey Consensus, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 [and the outcomes of other major United Nations conferences.]] [This institutional framework, which, at all levels, is inextricably linked and mutually interdependent, must be coherent and responsive to the needs of [Member States]/[stakeholders] [in particular those of [developing]/[all] countries in the areas of [policy formulation] financing, transfer of technologies and capacity-building, bearing in mind the principles of the Rio Declaration, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities] [and lead to the strengthening of existing bodies and organizations, with due respect to their existing mandates] [as well as the strengthening of institutions at all levels. [The efficacy of the] Institutional arrangements for sustainable development, at all levels, are inextricably linked and mutually interdependent.

Objectives

122. [Agreed] Measures to strengthen sustainable development institutional arrangements at all levels should be taken within the framework of Agenda 21 and build on developments since UNCED, and should lead to the achievement of, inter alia, the following objectives:

- (a) [Agreed] Strengthening commitments to sustainable development;
- (b) [Agreed] Integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced manner;
- (c) Strengthening of the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit [[bearing in mind]/as well as the relevant outcomes of [other]/[major] United Nations summits and conferences] [in particular]/[including] through the [provision]/[mobilization] of financial and technological resources, as well as capacity-building programmes for developing countries;
- (d) Strengthening [coherence], coordination, [and] monitoring [and accountability];
- (d) bis [Promoting the rule of law, as well as respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, strengthening of governmental institutions and links among them];
- (e) [Strengthening national and local capacities for and commitments to sustainable development];

(f) [Agreed] Increasing effectiveness and efficiency through limiting overlap and duplication of activities of international organizations, within and outside the United Nations system, based on their mandates and comparative advantages;

(g) [Promoting transparency and effective involvement and accountability of government and of civil society, including in the implementation of Agenda 21 and sustainable development decision-making;]/

(g) (alt) [Enhancing participation and effective involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the implementation of Agenda 21 as well as promoting transparency;]

(g) (alt2) [Promoting transparency and broad public participation |[in decision-making, [including in]/[related to]/[in] the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit;]

(h) Strengthening capacities for sustainable development at all levels [including the local level] in particular those of developing countries;

(i) [Agreed] Strengthening international cooperation aimed at reinforcing the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit.

Strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable development at the international level

123. [Agreed] The international community should:

(a) [Agreed] Enhance the integration of sustainable development goals as reflected in Agenda 21 and support for implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit into the policies, work programmes and operational guidelines of relevant United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, GEF and international financial and trade institutions within their mandates, while ensuring that their activities take full account of national programmes and priorities, particularly those of developing countries, as well as, where appropriate, countries with economies in transition, to achieve sustainable development.

(b) [Urge]/[Invite international organizations, including] the international financial organizations to [ensure that their advice on macroeconomic policies and structural reforms]/[take full account of [and are consistent with] sustainable development objectives and priorities, including those of developing countries/are consistent with national programmes and priorities of countries, including those of developing countries, to achieve sustainable development [on their advice on macroeconomic policies and structural reforms].

(b) (alt) [Urge the international financial organizations to] [Invite international organizations, including the international financial institutions] [ensure that the macroeconomic policies and structural reforms of the international financial institutions] [take full account of and] [are supportive of] and consistent with [sustainable development objectives and] priorities [including those] of developing countries set for achieving sustainable development [so as to] and avoid adverse effects on the environment and social development;]

(c) ~~Encourage international finance and trade institutions in their efforts to ensure~~/Take concrete steps towards ensuring/ that their decision-making processes and institutional structures [of international finance and trade institutions are open] and transparent [equitable, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory] [take into account the need for] [for special and differential treatment for member countries] [strengthening and making more precise WTO provisions on] [special and differential treatment of developing countries,] [and] providing [provide] for [full and] more effective participation of all member countries [in particular] including developing countries, including through enhancing the capacity of member developing countries as well as member countries with economies in transition to effectively participate in trade negotiations and [easing the accession of developing countries to the Organization] [and concluding accession proceedings as quickly as possible and accelerating the accession of least developed countries to WTO] as provided for in the Doha Ministerial Declaration [and facilitating the contributions and participation of civil society in the work of WTO:]

(d) [Promote initiatives to ensure coherence and mutual supportiveness between the rules of the multilateral trading systems and the rules of multilateral environment agreements consistent with the goals of sustainable development and with and in support of the work programme agreed through WTO.] [Promote a better understanding, including through policy dialogue, of the relationship of economics [between trade/finance,] environment and social development and, thereby, a better appreciation of their implications for implementation of sustainable development [at the national level and promote initiatives to ensure [coherence] mutual supportiveness between the rules of the multilateral trading system and the rules of multilateral environment agreements [and multilateral trading agreements] consistent with and in support of the work programme agreed through WTO.] In this context, further collaboration between WTO on the one hand and the ILO, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP and other relevant agencies on the other should be promoted]

(e) Strengthen collaboration between the United Nations system, international financial institutions, [through GEF and WTO]/[including the Global Environment Facility] [and WTO], [taking into account the] ongoing work of the United Nations Chief Executive Board (CEB) [[and its High-level Programme Committee] [as well as]/[and] the United Nations Development Group [and other inter-agency coordination bodies] [at the international policy level], regionally, as well as at the operational level, including through specific action-orientated partnerships and networks, ensuring that all aspects of sustainable development are addressed [and] support [in particular] developing countries' efforts in implementing Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit;

(e) (alt) Strengthen collaboration within the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility and WTO [taking into account the ongoing work of]/[through] the United Nations Chief Executive Board (CEB), the United Nations Development Group and the Environment Management Group (EMG) [and other inter-agency coordinating bodies]. This should involve [inter-agency] collaboration at the [international policy level, regionally, as well as at the] operational level, including through [specific action-oriented] [furthering cooperation and] partnerships [and networks] [aimed at the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the

Summit] [ensuring that all aspects of sustainable development are addressed], and support in particular developing countries' efforts in implementing Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit.

(f) [Invite GEF to increasingly participate in financing not only projects with global environmental benefits but also projects that address domestic environmental benefits [and are consistent with the GEF mandate], within the context of sustainable development;]

(g) [Increase the level of resources of the Funds established within the multilateral environment agreements and enhance delivery mechanisms to make those resources available to developing countries in an expeditious way;]

(h) [Strengthen and better integrate the social dimension in sustainable development policies and programmes, and ensure that sustainable development objectives are fully integrated in policies and programmes of bodies that have a primary focus on social issues. [In particular, the social component of sustainable development would benefit from implementation of [requires an enhanced global capacity to implement the] ILO conventions on core labour standards, and support social policy concerning labour market and social protection systems];]

(i) Fully implement the outcomes of the seventh session of the UNEP Governing Council, in particular decision I, "International environment governance" [in particular section D of its report] [in order to strengthen and better integrate the environmental dimension within the institutional framework of sustainable development] [and invite the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session to consider the question of [establishing universal] membership for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in the broader context of sustainable development];]

(j) [Engage actively and constructively in ensuring the timely completion of the negotiations on a comprehensive United Nations convention against corruption, including the question of repatriation of funds illicitly acquired to countries of origin;]

(k) [Develop] an international framework for transnational corporation accountability with the cooperation of the relevant stakeholders.] [Adopt and effectively implement private sector best practices for sustainable and responsible corporate governance building on the global reporting initiative and the United Nations global compact;]

(k) (alt) [Promote] corporate responsibility and accountability and the exchange of good practices through building, inter alia, on the United Nations global compact, the global reporting initiative and the [OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises] [as well as by using such tools as the internalization of external cost, environmental management accounting and environmental reporting];]

(l) [Implement the Monterrey Consensus, at all levels and with the participation of all stakeholders. In particular to better reflect the growth of interdependence and enhance legitimacy, economic governance needs to develop in two areas: broadening the base for decision-making on issues of development concern and filling organizational gaps. To complement and

consolidate advances in these two areas, the United Nations system and other multilateral institutions must be strengthened.]

Role of the General Assembly

124. The General Assembly of the United Nations should adopt sustainable development as one of the key elements [of the overarching framework] for United Nations activities [in the economic, social and environmental fields], particularly for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and give overall political direction to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit [and ensure that their implementation is kept under review], and that the next triennial comprehensive policy review give priority to these matters]. [In this context, the General Assembly is invited to consider issues related to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit] [in particular]/[including on means of implementation in conjunction with the provisions of the Monterrey Consensus]/[on means of implementation, [including relevant provisions of the Monterrey Consensus].

125. [The General Assembly should work to deepen the understanding of the concept of sustainable development in operational activities. An integrated approach to sustainable development should assist the streamlining of reporting within the United Nations system and national reporting requirements. The next three triennial comprehensive policy reviews should give priority to these issues.]

Role of the Economic and Social Council

126. [The Economic and Social Council should increase its involvement in sustainable development governance in order to achieve greater coordination and coherence of the United Nations system and among policies in the economic, social and environmental fields.] Pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and Agenda 21 provisions regarding the Economic and Social Council and General Assembly resolutions 48/162 and 50/227, which reaffirmed the Council as the central mechanism for coordination of the United Nations system and its specialized agencies and supervision of subsidiary bodies, in particular its functional commissions [. In this context, the role of the Council in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit should]/[the role of] the Council in promoting sustainable development should [be strengthened through the following actions]:

(a) The Council should organize periodic consideration of [sustainable development] themes [at its high-level and coordination segments]/[in regard to the implementation of Agenda 21] [on] in order to achieve greater coordination and integration of United Nations system-wide activities related to the three dimensions of sustainable development [in a balanced way] [including]/[in particular] [the provision of] the means of implementation]. Recommendations in regard to such themes could/[should] be made by the Commission on Sustainable Development [or other relevant intergovernmental bodies];

(b) [To this end, the Council should make full use of its high-level, coordination and operational activities segments [to effectively take into account all relevant aspects of the work of the United Nations on sustainable

development]. In this context and in accordance with its rules of procedures [and practices], the Council should actively engage major groups in its work on sustainable development;]

(c) The Economic and Social Council should promote greater [effectiveness, efficiency, complementarity and policy coordination]/[complementarity, policy] coordination [and coherence] of those activities of its functional commissions and its other subsidiary bodies which are relevant to [sustainable development,*] the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit, in accordance with its relevant decisions;

(d) Ensure that the general segment makes greater use of its consolidated report on the outcomes of functional commissions by focusing on the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development and acting on the recommendations of the report;

(e) [Terminate the work of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development and transfer its work to the Commission on Sustainable Development;]

(f) Request those of its expert bodies whose activities are relevant to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit to transmit to the Commission on Sustainable Development the parts of their reports relevant to the agenda of the Commission;]

(g) Ensuring that the Council's role in the arrangements to follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus, in partnership with the World Bank, IMF and WTO [are aimed at fulfilling pledges that developed countries and the commitments developing countries have made with regard to good governance at the Monterrey Conference through the implementation of a specific operational programme] [are closely linked with its follow-up to the Summit outcomes], including the sustained follow-up to the agreements reached [including monitoring the pledges made] at the Monterrey Conference. [In particular, the spring meetings of the Council and the Bretton Woods institutions should be further developed in line with paragraph 69 (b) of the Monterrey Consensus and the Summit outcomes in the broader context of the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Summit outcomes and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;]

(h) [Intensify its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of its activities concerning integrated and coordinated implementation of Agenda 21 and the follow-up to the outcomes of the Summit [and other United Nations conferences].]

Role and [function] [programme of work] of the Commission on Sustainable Development

127. The Commission on Sustainable Development should continue to be the high-level commission on sustainable development within the United Nations system and serve as a forum for consideration of issues related to integration of the three

* Statistical Commission, Commission on Population and Development, Commission for Social Development, Commission on the Status of Women and Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

dimensions of sustainable development. While the role, functions and mandate of the Commission as set out in [chapter 38 of] Agenda 21 and adopted in General Assembly resolution 47/191 continue to be relevant, the Commission needs to be strengthened, taking into account the role of relevant institutions and organizations. An enhanced role of the Commission should include reviewing and monitoring the progress in implementation of Agenda 21 [and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21] and the outcomes of the Summit as well as fostering [coherence] of implementation, initiatives and partnerships.

128. [Agreed] Within this context the Commission should place more emphasis on actions that enable implementation at all levels, including promoting and facilitating partnerships involving Governments, international organizations and relevant stakeholders for the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit.

129. [The General Assembly is invited to define the programme of work of the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, based on the outcomes of the Summit [and to help ensure that the Commission fulfils its mandate]/[giving priority to those Commission mandates that have not been implemented], [namely paragraphs 3 (e)-(f) and (h), 4 (a)-(c), and 5 (a) and (b) of General Assembly resolution 47/191]].

130. [In relation to its policy role,] the Commission should:

(a) Review and evaluate progress and promote the further implementation of Agenda 21, [the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21] and the outcomes of the Summit;

(b) [Focus on the cross-sectoral aspects of specific sectoral issues, building on the work of institutions, which have a mandate for specific sectoral issues, and] provide a forum for better integration of policies, including through interaction among Ministers dealing with the various dimensions and sectors of sustainable development through the high-level segments;

(c) [Address [new or emerging] issues related to [[sustainable development], within the framework of] the implementation of Agenda 21, [the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21] and Summit outcomes;]/[Address new challenges and opportunities that have emerged since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, within the framework of Agenda 21;]

(d) The Commission should focus on actions and exchange of experience related to implementation of Agenda 21, [the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21] and Summit outcomes, limiting negotiations in the sessions of the Commission to every [two]/[four] years;

(e) Address a maximum of [two] themes for each session.

131. [Agreed] In relation to its role in facilitating implementation, the Commission should emphasize the following:

(a) Review progress and promote the further implementation of Agenda 21, [the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21] and outcomes of the Summit, [including initiatives/partnerships]. In this context, the Commission should identify constraints on implementation and make recommendations to overcome these constraints;

(b) [Serve as a focal point for Governments, international organizations and other stakeholders to facilitate the exchange of lessons learned with respect to implementation of Agenda 21 and Summit outcomes;]

(c) [Serve as a focal point for Governments, international organizations and others involved in Summit partnerships to discuss ongoing efforts in those partnerships, including sharing lessons learned, progress made, best practices and strategies for advancing work on sustainable development;]

(d) [Focus on expanding implementation of the partnership approach to sustainable development by examining available data and by facilitating round tables and technical discussions among partners, as well as by providing a forum in which experts, scientists and potential partners can exchange ideas;]

(e) [In cooperation with United Nations agencies and others, as appropriate, establish a web site to promote access to information on partnerships. The web site would facilitate follow through, and help partners or potential partners to make decisions about the nature of possible partners, the efficient use of resources and how such projects might be more efficiently implemented;]

(f) [Agreed] Review issues related to financial assistance and transfer of technology for sustainable development, as well as capacity-building, while making full use of existing information. In this regard, the Commission could give consideration to more effective use of national reports and regional experience and to this end make appropriate recommendations;

(g) Provide a forum for analysis and exchange of experience on measures that assist sustainable development planning, decision-making [partnerships] and the implementation of sustainable development strategies [such as use of indicators, earth observation data, global mapping and geographic information systems]. In this regard, the Commission could give consideration to more effective use of national and regional reports;

(h) [Cooperate with other relevant intergovernmental organizations and commissions to fully implement chapter 39 of Agenda 21 as well as relevant provisions in the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, taking]/Take into account significant legal developments related to sustainable development.

132. [Agreed] In regard to the practical modalities and the programme of work of the Commission, specific decisions on these issues should be taken by the Commission at its next session, when the Commission's thematic work programme will be elaborated. In particular, the following issues should be considered:

(a) [Giving priority to those Commission mandates in resolution 47/191 that have not been fulfilled]/[Giving priority to the fulfilment of all Commission mandates contained in resolution 47/191];

(b) Continue to provide for the more direct and substantive involvement of international organizations and major groups in its work. [Consideration should be given to setting up consultative panels comprising senior representatives of international and regional organizations, international and regional financial and trade institutions, and key implementation partners from major groups, as well as a more creative/and/action-oriented use of Commission meetings];

(c) [Agreed] Give greater consideration to the scientific contributions to sustainable development, through, for example, drawing on the scientific community and encouraging national, regional, and international scientific networks to be involved in the Commission;

(d) [Furthering the contribution of formal and non-formal educators/education] to sustainable development, and, as appropriate, give consideration to recognizing educators as a major group];

(e) [The need for] inter-sessional meetings.

133. [In relation to policy integration as well as stakeholder involvement and building partnerships] the Commission should [continue to] provide at the international level a [key]/[primary] meeting point for Governments, international organizations and stakeholder interests relevant to sustainable development. For Commission meetings that are focused on practical experience of implementation, Governments, international organizations and stakeholders should be encouraged to include on their delegations experts experienced in implementation of issues under consideration]

134. [Undertake further measures aimed at promoting good practice and lessons learned in sustainable development [and in addition promote] using contemporary methods of data collection and dissemination, including broader use of information technologies.]

[Role of international institutions]

135. [International institutions both within and outside] the United Nations system [including]/[as well as] the international financial institutions, [and]/WTO[and GEF as well as other relevant international organizations]] are invited/encouraged, within their mandates, to enhance their ongoing cooperative efforts in order to:

(a) [Ensure]/[Promote] effective and collective support to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit at all levels;

(b) [[Secure]/[seek] coherence in the approaches of]/[Enhance coordination among] international institutions to implement [implementation of] Agenda 21, the outcomes of the Summit, relevant sustainable development aspects of the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the outcomes of the fourth WTO ministerial meeting (Doha);

(c) [Promote further incorporation of]/[ensure that] sustainable development objectives [are further incorporated] in the work of international organizations, funds, programmes and financial institutions];

(d) [Keep the Council and the Commission as relevant [[fully] informed on] actions they are taking to implement Agenda 21 and Summit outcomes.]

136. [CEB is invited to further promote cooperation and coordination and take appropriate measures [develop a collaborative action-oriented network] to facilitate inter-agency exchange of information to foster coordination and mainstreaming sustainable development.]/[CEB is invited to develop a collaborative action-oriented network to facilitate inter-agency exchange of information to foster coordination and mainstreaming sustainable development. CEB will keep the Council and the Commission informed on actions it is taking to

implement Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Summit and other major conference outcomes.]

137. [Significantly strengthen the]/[Extend significant] [support]] to the] UNDP [programmes on capacity-building, in particular the] Capacity 21 programme as [a key]/[an important] mechanism for supporting local and national development capacity-building efforts in developing countries.

138. [Strengthen cooperation among UNEP and other United Nations bodies, in the field of the environment, the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO, with a view to mutually supporting sustainable development policies and approaches.]

139. UNEP, UNDP and UNCTAD should strengthen their contribution to sustainable development programmes and the implementation of Agenda 21 as well as the outcomes of the Summit at all levels, [particularly in the area of promoting capacity-building, in accordance with the institutional framework outlined in chapter 38 of Agenda 21].

140. [Agreed] UNEP, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UNDP and UNCTAD, within their mandates, should strengthen their contribution to sustainable development programmes and the implementation of Agenda 21 as well as the outcomes of the Summit at all levels, particularly in the area of promoting capacity-building.

141. To promote effective implementation of [sustainable development] Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit at the international level, the following should also be undertaken:

(a) [Agreed] Streamline the international sustainable development meeting calendar and, as appropriate, reduce the number of meetings, the length of meetings and the amount of time spent on negotiated outcomes in favour of spending more time on practical matters related to implementation;

(b) [Encourage partnership initiatives for implementation by all relevant actors [and in this context, establish modalities to follow up the new partnership arrangements included as part of the Summit outcome.] Participation of major groups in this context should be enhanced;]

(c) [Agreed] Make full use of developments in the field of information and communication technologies.

142. [The principle of non-discrimination among major multilateral environmental agreements should be fully taken into account in any structural reform aimed at the strengthening of international institutional arrangements for sustainable development. In this regard, the Convention to Combat Desertification, like other UNCED Conventions, should have a dedicated, specific and permanent financial [mechanism]. In this context, the international community should:]

(a) [Commit to designate]/[Support the designation of] land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, as GEF focal areas, as a means of enhancing GEF support for the successful implementation [consistent with its mandate, as an additional [the permanent] financial mechanism] of the Convention. In this regard, the Second Assembly of GEF, to be held in October 2002, and the sixth session of the Conference of Parties to the Convention, should take the necessary measures to this effect];

(b) Invite GEF Assembly to respond positively and effectively to **[the outcomes of the Summit.]/[the demands arising from the Summit, bearing in mind that financing sustainable development requires substantial increase in the next replenishment of GEF.]**

143. Strengthening of the international institutional framework for sustainable development is an evolutionary process. It is necessary to keep under review relevant arrangements, identify gaps, eliminate duplication of functions and continue to strive for greater **[coordination and]/[coherence]** and **[balanced]** integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development aiming at the implementation of Agenda 21, **[the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21]** and the outcomes of the Summit.

Strengthening institutional arrangements for sustainable development at the regional level

144. **[Agreed]** Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit should be effectively pursued at the regional and subregional levels through the regional commissions and other regional and subregional institutions and bodies.

145. Regional sustainable development strategies and action plans agreed by countries, which reflect national, and regional priorities, should be developed or enhanced and implemented. **[including through]** Intraregional coordination and cooperation on sustainable development **[should be improved]** among the regional commissions, United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, regional development banks and other regional and subregional institutions and bodies.

146. Intraregional coordination and cooperation on sustainable development **[should be improved]** among the regional commissions, United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, regional development banks and other regional and subregional institutions and bodies.

147. In particular and taking into account relevant provisions of Agenda 21, the regional commissions, in collaboration with other regional and subregional bodies should:

(a) **[Promote the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development into their work, in a balanced way, including through [promoting]/[supporting] the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit. To this end, the capacity of the regional commissions should [enhance their capacity to]/[be enhanced] through internal action and be provided [as appropriate] with external support [as appropriate];]**

(b) Facilitate and promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development into the work of regional, subregional and other bodies, for example by facilitating the exchange of experience, best practices, case studies and partnerships experiences related to the implementation of **[Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit]/[sustainable development policies and initiatives];**

(c) **[Assist in the mobilization of technical and financial assistance and facilitate the provision of adequate financing for the implementation of regionally**

and subregionally agreed sustainable development programmes and projects.] [This assistance should, in particular, focus on countries that lack adequate access to capital markets and countries where poverty remains a challenge].

(d) [Consider establishing regional or subregional processes or changes to existing processes, by which national reports on implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit, including experience of partnerships [and national actions]/[initiatives] [and national sustainable development strategies], are mutually shared;]

(e) [Actively encourage new partnerships to tackle sustainable development challenges in the region and subregions, [strengthen civil society participation] and develop open and transparent dialogue processes with multi-stakeholder groups in a manner consistent with the practice of the Commission on Sustainable Development.]

148. [Agreed] Regionally and subregionally agreed sustainable development initiatives and programmes, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the globally agreed Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, should be supported.

Strengthening institutional frameworks for sustainable development at the national level

149. States should:

(a) [Continue to]/[Promote] [coherent and] coordinated approaches to institutional frameworks for sustainable development at all national levels, [including through, as appropriate] the establishment or strengthening of existing authorities and mechanisms necessary for policy-making, coordination and implementation and enforcement of laws are essential.

(b) [As appropriate] Be encouraged [through international support] to have national sustainable development strategies in place [as soon as possible]/[by 2005], including, where applicable, poverty reduction strategies, which should be pursued in accordance with each country's national priorities. Achieving sustainable development cannot be done without greater integration at all policy-making and operational levels, including the lowest administrative levels possible.

(b) (alt) [All countries should have begun the implementation of a national strategy for sustainable development by 2005, such as, where applicable, a poverty reduction strategy. Policy coherence between and integration of national and local sustainable development strategies and other development frameworks should be ensured, in accordance with each country's national priorities, while promoting the better integration of environmental and other issues of sustainability into poverty reduction strategies.]

150. [Recognizing that good governance at the national level is essential for sustainable development, all States should strengthen their government institutions, including by promoting the rule of law, improving legal structures and enforcing existing laws that support sustainable development.]

151. [Give consideration to the establishment or enhancement of]/[Establish or enhance]/[Consider establishing] [sustainable development councils]/[national coordination structures] or equivalent, at the national level, including at the local

level, in order to provide a high-level focus on sustainable development policy development [and implementation.] In this context, multi-stakeholder participation should be promoted [as appropriate].

152. [Multilateral and bilateral development cooperation agencies should continue to play an active role in supporting developing countries in the implementation of national sustainable development strategies, including at the local level, while respecting their full ownership and leadership. The capacity of the United Nations system should be strengthened in order to support national efforts in capacity-building for sustainable development, including at the local level, through provision of financial and technological assistance.]

153. Efforts by all countries, particularly developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, [should]/[to] enhance national institutional arrangements for sustainable development, including at the local level, [should be complemented through]/[by] [undertakings of the international community support], inter alia, by promoting cross-sectoral approaches in their formulation of strategies and plans for sustainable development, such as, where applicable, poverty reduction strategies, aid coordination and by encouraging participatory, [multi-stakeholder] approaches to dialogue, [planning], implementation, [monitoring and review], and enhancing policy analysis, management capacity, [negotiation] and implementation capacity, [including mainstreaming a gender perspective in all these activities].

154. [Agreed] Enhance the role and capacity of local authorities as well as stakeholders in implementing Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit and in strengthening the continuing support for local Agenda 21 programmes and associated initiatives and partnerships, and encourage, in particular, partnerships among and between local authorities and other levels of government and stakeholders to advance sustainable development as called for in, inter alia, the Habitat Agenda.

Participation of major groups

155. [Enhance partnerships between governmental and non-governmental actors, including all major groups, as well as volunteer groups, on programmes and activities for the achievement of sustainable development at all national levels.]

155. (alt) [Ensure participation and cooperation between Governments and non-governmental actors on policy development [and the] [in implementing]/[implementation and monitoring of programmes and activities for the achievement of sustainable development at all levels [particularly at the national and subnational [and local] levels], with an emphasis on safeguarding the interests of vulnerable groups.]

156. [Develop, with participation of civil society, global multilateral guidelines on]/[Promote and ensure] public access to information, public participation on decision-making and access to justice drawing on existing experience, including [regional] initiatives designed to implement principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.]

157. [Acknowledge the importance of the interrelationship between human rights promotion and protection and environmental protection for sustainable

development, and invite further consideration of these issues in the relevant forums, including by continued cooperation between UNEP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.]

158. [Promote youth participation, particularly by supporting local youth councils and encouraging their establishment where they do not exist, with the provision of financial and technical support, where appropriate.]
